

Why Deaf Culture?

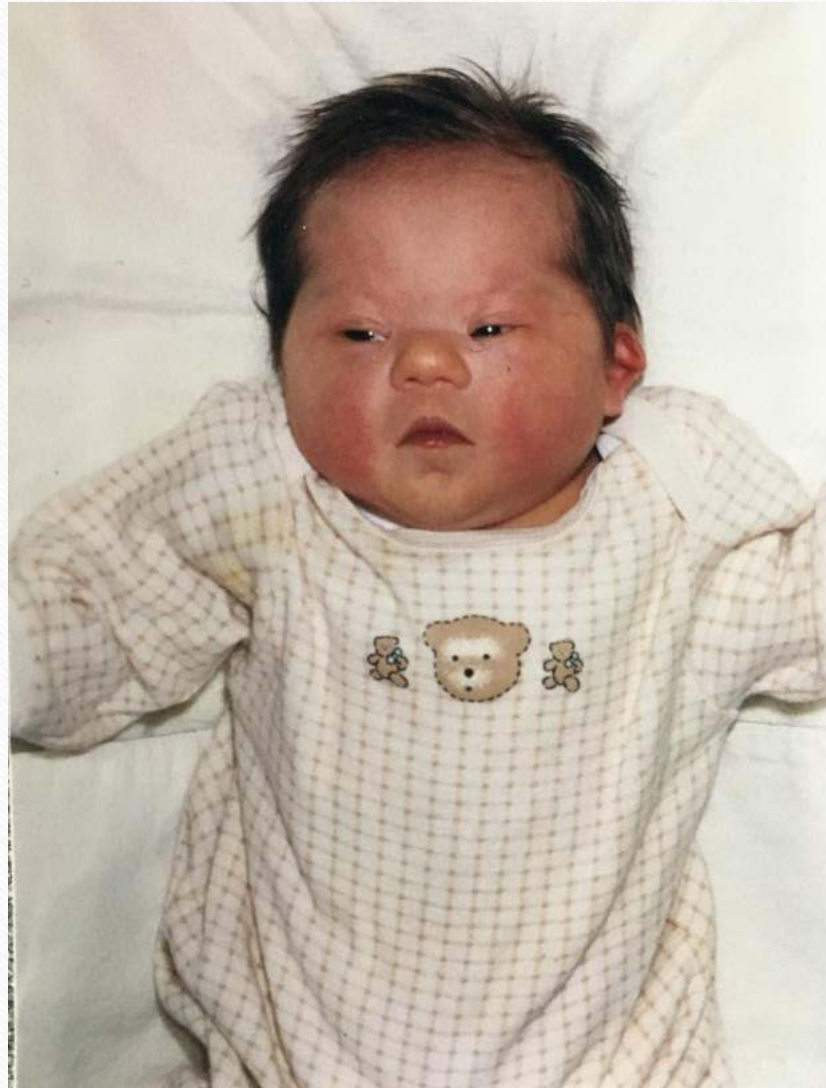
Considerations shared by a hearing mom of a deaf child

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Objectives

1. Learn about history of deaf culture, as understood by a hearing mom
2. Learn about my family's choice and journey in learning about deaf culture
3. Learn positive and strength-based terminology that can be used when talking about deafness



Deciding what to do now?

- We have this new baby with many needs.
- We meet w/ many medical professionals:
 - ENTs, audiologists, heart, eye and gastro-intestinal specialists, genetics

Deciding what to do now?

- We meet w/ Birth to 3 providers:
 - Learn what services are available.
 - We complete needs assessments
 - We are asked: “What are your goals for her?”
 - Develop IFSP
 - Discuss cost of plan and figure out if ‘cheaper’ to do this or go through insurance
 - Schedule therapists in our home almost every day

Who will be Tess's community?

- Being a sociologist, I am struggling with this question. I know people learn from others, but....
- How will she communicate?
- Who will she communicate with?
- I read everything I could get my hands and eyes on, concluding:

“

If you don't know the language, you'll only see the surface of our culture...the language is the heart of the culture and you cannot separate it.

”

We need to learn sign language and its culture!

But where are the cultural specialists?

- Where are the deaf adults?
- Where do we learn sign language?
- Who can we practice with?
- How can I get my extended family to learn?
- How can I convince us all that we need to accept Tess as deaf and learn her native language while still trying to use hearing devices?

Value connection to history

- Aristotle: Deaf and dumb
- ~1600s: American Sign Language developed and used
- 1880: 2nd International Congress on Education of the Deaf in Milan
- 1960s: Civil Rights movement:
 - NAD, TTYs, close captioning, Stoke's ASL research, FAPE, Rehabilitation Act and ADA
 - Finally 21st Congress rejected the 2nd Congress resolutions

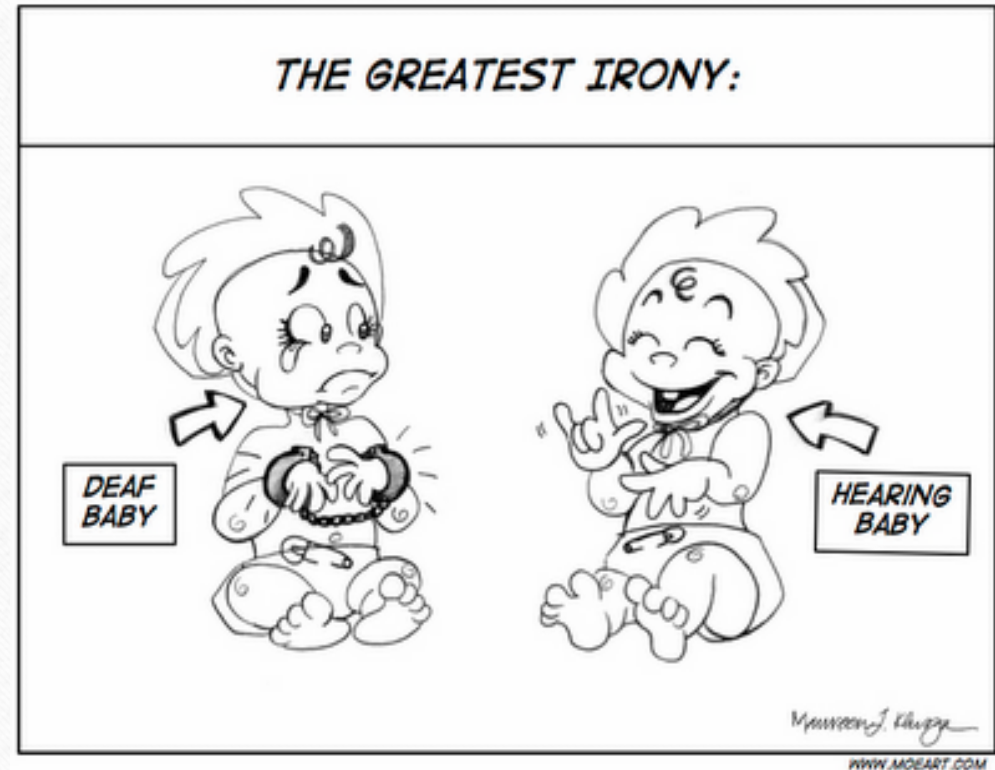
Today

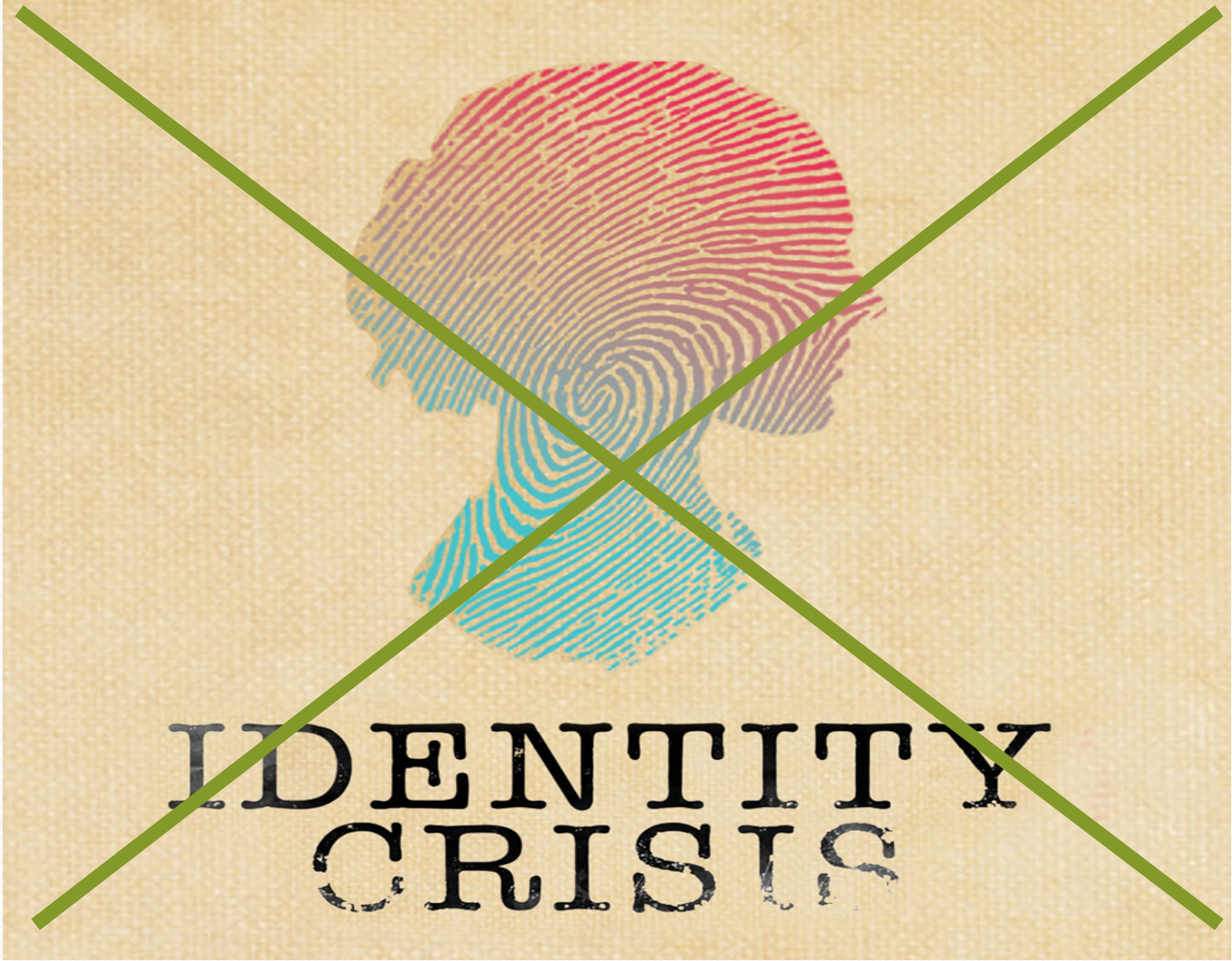
- ASL classes
- Commercials
- Nyle DiMarco



But still Today

Deaf adults feel they are reliving deaf history's past.





How do you start to learn about deaf culture
and sign language?





Happy Girl

9 years old

- Parent support/family literacy program named Shore to Shore
- WI Deaf Mentor Program
- D/HH schooling til age 9
- Go anywhere there is sign language and deaf people



Strength-based vocabulary and attitudes

www.aslized.org

Positive:

- Capability/Differently Abled
- Identified
- Hearing level/status/d/hh/deafgain
- Early supports and involvement
- Opportunities

Negative:

- Disability
- Diagnosed
- Hearing loss
- Early intervention
- Options



TODAY



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